

years. Even government ministers and heads of French scientific and industrial organizations, alerted to the vacuum society's plight, were unable to sway the Cannes official.

And so the conference went on, with most of the speakers and exhibitors choosing to remain in Cannes and stick it out. Monday, the first day of sessions, was chaotic. Although busses to take the participants to and from the conference were provided, as were an open bar and restaurant, there were electrical malfunctions, the weather was particularly hot and humid, and the tents were unventilated and crowded. But soon temperatures and temperatures cooled, blowers were set up in the tents, and everyone began to see the lighter side of the situation. By Tuesday, the conference was running fairly smoothly. John Bertucci, who represented MKS Instruments at the exhibit, told us.

Nonetheless, various legal and other actions are in the works. The French Vacuum Society is filing a class action suit for breach of contract against the town of Cannes. The American Vacuum Society has registered a protest with the US embassy in Paris. Because the exhibitors' contracts were with the French Vacuum Society, some are considering suing the Society. And IUVSTA will ask IUPAP and IUPAC for an official boycott of Cannes for all future meetings. —MEJ

NSF physics division staff and advisers

Val L. Fitch of Princeton University (see page 17) assumed the chairmanship of the NSF Advisory Committee for Physics on 1 July. Fitch was elected by the Committee's members after Chairman Peter Carruthers (Los Alamos) announced that he was stepping down from the post. Three new members will be selected by January. The remainder of the membership includes J. A. Armstrong (IBM), Robert A. Eisenstein (Carnegie-Mellon University), Hans E. Frauenfelder (University of Illinois, Urbana), Anne Kernan (University of California, Riverside), Neal Lane (Rice University), Claire E. Max (Lawrence Livermore Laboratory), William H. Press (Harvard College Observatory) and Robert G. Stokstad (Oak Ridge).

The NSF Advisory Committee for Physics makes recommendations directly to the head of the Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences, William Klemperer, as well as to the NSF Division of Physics. These recommendations arise from the Committee's review of the Foundation's actions regarding physics, its oversight of major project planning and its mediation of

the financial support afforded to the various physical subfields.

Richard Deslattes, chief of the quantum metrology group at the National Bureau of Standards and a senior research fellow there, was recently appointed acting director of the physics division. Deslattes replaced Neal Lane, who completed his one-year appointment to that post and has now returned to Rice University, where he was chairman of the physics department. Deslattes and Lane are filling in for Marcel Bardon, who is on leave serving as science attaché to UNESCO, and is expected back in August.

Also in the physics division, David Berley has replaced Alexander Abashian (who has gone to Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University) as elementary-particle physics program director; Richard Heins replaced Gaurang Yodh (who returned to the University of Maryland) as elementary-particle physics program officer; Robert Hill replaced Laird Schearer (who returned to the University of Missouri, Rolla) as atomic, molecular and plasma-physics program officer, and Jeffrey Mandula has replaced Boris Kayser (who is on leave at SLAC until September) as theoretical-physics program director.

Centers to fund academic-industrial research

A bill that authorizes \$285 million between Fiscal Years 1981 and 1985 to establish industrial technology centers at universities was signed by President Carter in October. The law, known as the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980, also establishes an Office of Industrial Technology in the Department of Commerce. Carter vowed to initiate what he called "generic technology centers" last year as part of his proposals for stimulating industrial innovation (PHYSICS TODAY, January 1980, page 119).

The National Science Foundation and the Commerce Department are to set up Centers for Industrial Technology at universities or other nonprofit institutions. The Centers will sponsor joint industry/academe research on generic technologies, in which individual firms have little incentive to invest, but which may have significant economic or strategic importance, such as manufacturing technology. The centers are also to provide assistance and advice to individuals and industries, particularly small businesses. Under the act, at least 25% of each center's funding will come from industry, and the centers will be expected to become, ultimately, either self-sustaining or totally industry-supported. Each center will have the option of acquiring title to any

invention conceived or made there, provided the Center intends to promote commercialization of the invention.

The Commerce Department has already issued regulations and requests for proposals for the centers. Welding and joining, tribology and powder metallurgy are the first three generic technologies selected to receive support.

Although Congress and the Carter administration agree on the need for such industrial centers, industry itself is not so enthusiastic. The Industrial Research Institute, for example, has issued a statement saying that it is wary of such centers, "since there is a significant risk that such laboratories may become a self-perpetuating drain on national resources and lack the necessary inputs on market needs and opportunities to be an effective force in the innovation process."

In addition to the Office of Industrial Technology, the bill establishes a National Industrial Technology Board, made up of 15 members, to review the activities of that Office, a Center for the Utilization of Federal Technology within the Commerce Department, to serve as a central clearinghouse for the transfer of information about Federally owned technologies to state and local governments and private industry, and requires each Federal laboratory to form a Research and Technology Applications Office to ensure full use of the results of the Federal R&D investment.

The Act authorizes \$24 million for FY 1981 and a total of \$261 million for the following four years. —MEJ

in brief

Stanford University plans to establish a research facility dedicated to the design and development of very large-scale integrated circuit systems. Sixteen million dollars, mostly from government and industry sources, will fund a 60 000 square-foot building and computer design automation and circuit fabrication equipment.

A fund for extragalactic research has been set up at the University of Texas at Austin using proceeds from the sale of 19 acres of land donated to the University by Gerard de Vaucouleurs, a professor of astronomy there, and his wife.

The National Science Foundation has announced the establishment of the Vannevar Bush Award to be presented to "a senior statesman of science and technology" for an outstanding contribution to science and technology through public service. The Bush Award will be given sporadically and will carry no monetary stipend. Bush was largely responsible